

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Working Group  
for  
Executive Committee for Highway Safety  
Meeting Minutes; Mtg. #1  
July 28, 2006**

**Location:**

NCDOT Board Room, Room 150, Transportation Building @ 9:00 a.m.

**Working Group Members in Attendance:**

Timothy Akers	Loretta Barren	Cliff Braam	Terry Canales
Jeff Cox	James Dunlop	Vickie Embry	Frank Hackney
Brad Hibbs	Greg Loy	Mary Meletiou	Tyler Meyer
Tom Norman	Pete Schubert	Carrie Simpson	Charlie Zegeer

**Guests in Attendance:**

Kevin Lacy

**Scribe:**

Jeff Cox

**Minutes:**

- The meeting began at approximately 9:00 a.m.

**Task I – Welcome**

Tom opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

**Task II – Overview of Executive Committee and their charge to the Working Group**

Cliff Braam, gave an inspiring comprehensive overview of the Executive Committee for Highway Safety (ECHS).

Initiatives that have come out of the ECHS include several that have become models for the rest of the nation.

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Working Group is one of fourteen focused working groups that report to the ECHS.

Duties of the ECHS are:

- Coordinate the State's many safety efforts with an emphasis on efficiency of resources and the prioritization of programs
- Establish statewide safety goals and objectives
- Review and approve all actions by the Working Groups
- MAKE IT HAPPEN!

Duties of the Working Groups are:

- Level where most of the work (problem id/resolution) will be done
- Detailed analysis of the assigned issue
- Develop strategies for reducing and/or alleviating assigned issue

- Report out to the ECHS on a quarterly basis
- Support “Host” agency for implementation of approved strategies

Expectations of the members of the working group:

- Commitment
- Open to all possibilities/ideas
- Timeframes
- Membership rotation

Data will be provided by Traffic Engineering or the Highway Safety Research Center (HSRC).

Cliff also stressed that the Working Group decides the meeting frequency and what issues to pursue. It can also set up sub-groups or smaller Technical Working Groups to focus on specifics.

### **Task III – Introductions**

Having a better understanding of the Working Group, Tom introduced himself and had everyone introduce themselves, offering information about themselves that shows their interest in Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Issues.

### **Task IV – Break**

### **Task V – Background**

Tom Norman called everyone back to order. In order to avoid “reinventing the wheel”, time was spent looking at what is already being done in the area of Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety.

#### **A. DIVISION OF BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN TRANSPORTATION (DBPT)**

Mary Meletiou gave us a quick overview of Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Initiatives that are already in place. She also demonstrated how members could access more detailed information through the DBPT website.

#### **B. FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION (FHWA)**

Brad Hibbs spoke briefly on FHWA’s Safety Emphasis for Pedestrians and Bicycles.

#### **C. HIGHWAY SAFETY RESEARCH CENTER (HSRC)**

Charlie Zegeer presented some crash data statistics that demonstrates the need for our working group to get busy. A printable copy of his presentation is attached. He suggested that Stephen Lowry of NCDOT’s Highway Safety Improvement Group be invited to share more details about crash data as it relates to Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety.

Charlie Zegeer also spoke on the FHWA Pedestrian Safety Plan Initiative.

### **Task VI – Discussion**

Tom Norman led the working group in a discussion/brainstorming session in the remaining time.

Concerns that were brought up for consideration were:

- Pete Schubert suggested we have a focus on educating the public in regard to the bicyclist/motorist conflicts and sharing the road. Need to discuss strategies to encourage all to recognize others’ rights to use the road and dispel misperceptions that motorists have of bicyclists and vice versa. There is

frustration on the part of drivers and bicyclists, mostly because of a lack of understanding of responsibilities for both. Kevin Lacy mentioned that pedestrians and bicyclists enjoy a high level of flexibility, but do not understand the dangers that are associated with that flexibility.

- In regard to pedestrian safety, Tyler Meyer suggested examining strategies for increasing visibility. He also suggested consideration of new engineering approaches to pedestrian issues
- Tim Akers mentioned one example that many bicyclists ride against the traffic, stressing the need to educate the public on where to ride when on the road.
- Vickie Embry mentioned that most crashes involving pedestrians are due to pedestrian error. They must be made aware of what is safe. In what ways are current design practices encouraging pedestrians to make decisions to cross in unsafe ways.
- Suggested ways to educate included, free public relations ads on Cable TV and local TV stations. Posters/maps in key locations.

With limited time in this meeting, Tom suggested that each group member develop a list of bicycle and pedestrian safety concerns that could be addressed by the Working Group. These top concerns should be sent to Jeff Cox to be brought up for discussion in future meetings.

The next meeting of the **ECHS** is scheduled for October 24, 2006 from 9:30 – 11:30 in the Chief Engineer's Conference Room. It would be good for the Bicycle Pedestrian Working Group to develop an action plan to present to the ECHS at this meeting.

### **Task VII – Next Meeting Date**

Our next meeting will be in early September. Jeff Cox will select a few dates and send them out to the group for feedback.

The meeting was adjourned at noon.